

Ronstadt Generations in concert in Ambler on Nov. 20

Ronstadt Generations, featuring the multi-talented family of legendary singer Linda Ronstadt, will be in concert in Ambler on Saturday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., at an in-home “house concert” presented by Slot-1 Recording Studio. The concert is part of the group’s East Coast tour supporting its CD release, “Lulo,” a mix of original songs and traditional Southwestern music.

“My sister Linda and I grew up in Tucson, Ariz., listening to the music our family loved which ranged from the old operas and Big Band to songs from Mexico and the Southwest,” said Michael J. Ronstadt, who fronts Ronstadt Generations. “Our grandfather founded the Club Filarmónico de Tucson in the late 1800s, and sang on the radio in the 1920s. Our aunt Luisa Espinel toured all over the country in the ’30s and ’40s presenting the music of the Southwest.”

The band grew out of Ronstadt’s desire to explore traditional roots and pass along

his family’s musical heritage. Band members include sons Michael G., a classically trained cellist; Petie, trained in classical and jazz bass; and Josh Hisle, who has toured with Neil Young and brings his musical roots from the hills of Tennessee and Native American traditions.

“We want to get folks interested in finding more about their own roots through their family’s music,” said Ronstadt. “Lulo,” the title track of the band’s CD, is an old Spanish-rooted lullaby passed from my grandfather.”

Like his sister, Michael preserves the family’s musical heritage. “Linda’s album “Canciones De Mi Padre — Songs of My Father,” was modeled after a book our aunt Luisa Espinel put out in the ’40s,” he said. “Different influences that make up Southwestern music include traditional German, Spanish, African and



Ronstadt Generations in concert in Ambler on Saturday, Nov. 20, include (L to R) Michael G. Ronstadt, Josh Hisle, Michael J. Ronstadt and Petie Ronstadt.

Irish music.”

Though Michael’s superstar sister Linda has been more widely known, it’s the entire family’s involvement that continues to ensure the multicultural music of the Southwest will never be lost.

“Our music differs from Linda’s in that we bring a whole new set of influences to the table. Having Michael G. and Petie as fifth generation Ronstadts brings a fresh approach to the way we shape and embellish the arrangements.”

Regarding the famous Ronstadt name, he said, “It can obviously open doors. I’m incredibly proud of all of the work my sister’s done. She’s very supportive and helpful, but she’s never said, ‘let me make this happen for you.’”

Ronstadt Generations band members have toured the world with artists including Los Lobos, Mariachi Cobre, the Gatlin Brothers, Linda Ronstadt, the Dixie Hummingbirds, Neil Young, Walt Michael, Norah Jones, tThe Santa Cruz River Band and Guy Davis, among others.

This is the second East Coast tour for Ronstadt Generations, which started touring across the

country in June 2010, and “had a very warm reception,” Ronstadt said.

Regarding house concerts, “Home concerts have become an increasingly important venue for the independent musician. They are close and intimate and give the audience a chance to connect with the artist,” Ronstadt said. “Many folks find that hosting a home concert is a wonderful way of connecting with friends, making new ones and having great music in the comfort of your home.”

Opening for Ronstadt Generations at the Nov. 20 house concert is Lyra Project, a duo from Ambler featuring Debra Lee and Rick Denzien, with Michael G. Ronstadt sitting in on cello.

To enjoy the evening with Ronstadt Generations, advance tickets are encouraged. Tickets are \$20, include light snacks and beverages, and are available online through www.SongwritersOriginalShowcase.com, or by calling Slot-1 Recording Studio at 215-643-1313.

For more information, visit www.ronstadtgenerations.com; www.slot-1.com; and www.lyraproject.com.